

Site Name: Cedar Chemical Corporation Site  
Location: West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas  
On-Scene Coordinator: Gary Moore

## **Background**

The Cedar Chemical Corporation Site, originally constructed in 1970, is a defunct chemical manufacturing facility located in Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas. The facility consists of six (6) separate processing units, laboratories, a finished goods warehouse, a stormwater pond, a wastewater treatment plant, a spare parts warehouse, a maintenance shop, an administration building and various other buildings, all located on 48 acres. The key problem areas of the site include those with abandoned chemicals, possible buried drums, a buried drum vault filled with 200- 300 drums, ground water contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination, as well as abandoned stormwater and wastewater treatment systems.

The legal people from ADEQ, EPA, and DOJ are still collaborating on PRP enforcement related issues associated with the site.

- March 8, 2002: Cedar Chemical Shuts Down Operations and Files Bankruptcy
- September 30, 2002: EPA travels to site to evaluate NPL status and removal potential as well as get prepared for a bankruptcy hearing;
- October 7, 2002: EPA OSC travels to NYC to testify in bankruptcy hearing. Judge accepts claims of contamination but indicates company has no money to conduct cleanup;
- October 17, 2002: EPA travels to site to evaluate condition of property prior to abandonment;
- October 18, 2002: ADEQ hires security to prevent vandalism and intentional release of chemicals into the environment. ADEQ continues this security to date. The ADEQ has been entertaining prospective purchaser proposals since this date. The ADEQ authorized approximately \$200,000 in the bankruptcy settlement;
- October 11, 2002: ADEQ requests EPAs assistance to evaluate the site to determine to determine NPL and removal potential;
- December 10, 2002: Prescore indicates that the site will not likely rank on the NPL due to the potential receptors in the area. Therefore, the site is not being further considered for NPL ranking;
- January 16, 2003: Action Memo signed approving EPA to address lab chemicals, remaining chemicals in tanks, piping, and equipment; abandoned product and wastes located in product warehouse; and, other miscellaneous chemicals stored around the site;
- June 19, 2003: The removal action has been delayed as ADEQ continues negotiations with prospective purchasers. EPA awaits word from ADEQ that they are ready for us to begin the approved removal action.